

Claims

1. A method for management of bearers in a cellular telecommunications system, **characterized** in that

- at least two priority data items are associated with each bearer, the first one of the priority data items having a same value for at least two bearers associated under the same client identity, and
- decisions whether or not to provide services for a bearer are based at least in part on the value of at least one of said at least two priority data items.

2. A method according to Claim 1, **characterized** in that the bearers are organized into sets on at least two hierarchical levels and a priority data item is given for each set.

3. A method according to Claim 2, **characterized** in that one of the hierarchical levels is the level of one bearer, and the sets on that level comprise one bearer.

4. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that one of the hierarchical levels is the level of client identity, and the sets on that level comprise the bearers of that client identity.

5. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that

- at least two sets of decisions on providing service are defined,
- a first combination of the priority data items is used in a first set and
- a second combination of the priority data items is used in a second set.

6. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that all bearers associated with the same client identity have the same values of a first priority data item of said at least two priority data items.

7. A method according to Claim 6, **characterized** in that the value of the first priority data item is stored in the USIM.

8. A method according to Claim 6 ~~or 7~~, **characterized** in that said client identity is the identity of a USIM.

9. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that at least one of the priority data items is allocated during the bearer setup procedure.

10. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that at least one priority data item is changed during the connection.

11. A method according to Claim 9 ~~or 10~~, **characterized** in that the priority data item is determined by the mobile station.

12. A method according to Claim 9 ~~or 10~~, **characterized** in that the priority data item is determined by the network.

13. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹ in a telecommunications system comprising a radio access network, a core network and a mobile equipment wherein

- the decisions on whether or not to provide the radio service for the connection are made in the radio access network and

- the priority items are stored in the radio access network,

characterized in that

the mobile equipment sends the core network entity controlling the bearer a request to change the value of a priority data item and the core network requests the radio access network to change the value of the priority data item.

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a 14. A method according to ~~any of the preceding Claims~~¹, **characterized** in that at least a required minimum value for a priority data item is defined and the bearers having a priority data item value smaller than the required minimum priority value are not given resources.

15. A cellular telecommunications system, **characterized** in that for management of bearers

- at least two priority data items are arranged to be associated with each bearer, the first one of the priority data items having a same value for at least two bearers associated under the same client identity, and
- decisions whether or not to provide services for a bearer are arranged to be based at least in part on the value of at least one of said at least two priority data items.

16. A cellular telecommunications system according to Claim 15, **characterized** in that the bearers are organized into sets on at least two hierarchical levels and a priority data item is given for each set.

a 17. A cellular telecommunications system according to Claim 15 ~~or 16~~, **characterized** in that

- at least two sets of decisions on providing service are defined,
- a first combination of the priority data items is used in a first set and
- a second combination of the priority data items is used in a second set.

18. A radio network controller for a cellular telecommunications system, **characterized** in that for management of bearers it comprises

- means for associating at least two priority data items with each bearer, the first one of the priority data items having a same value for at least two bearers associated under the same client identity, and

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- means for making decisions whether or not to provide services for a bearer based at least in part on the value of at least one of said at least two priority data items.

19. A radio network controller according to Claim 18, **characterized** in that it comprises means for organizing the bearers into sets on at least two hierarchical levels and for giving a priority data item for each set.

a 20. A radio network controller according to Claim 18 ~~or 19~~, **characterized** in that it comprises

- means for defining at least two sets of decisions on providing service,
- means for using a first combination of the priority data items in a first set and
- means for using a second combination of the priority data items in a second set.

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